

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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disability@harfordcountymd.gov

Meeting Minutes July 24, 2006

Attendance:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Joan Loftus
Rhia Perry
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Angela Barnett
Bob Coen
Buddy Green
Kathy Halliday

- I. Vice Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:05p.m. Commission members and visitors introduced themselves.
 - II. Minutes: The minutes of the June 26, 2006 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
 - III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee:
 1. The Commission voted to recommend the following individuals to fill vacancies in the category of:
 - Individuals representing agencies serving individuals with disabilities;
Amy Axel, Alliance, Inc.
Niki Biggs, Abilities Network
- The names will be forwarded to the County Executive for further action.



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2. Because of the number of excellent candidates, the committee introduced proposed amendments to the Commission by-laws to formalize Associate Membership. After discussion, the amendments were tabled to be referred back to the Membership Committee with questions.
3. The Membership Committee has not yet made a recommendation to fill the vacancy in the category of: a county citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business.
4. No applications have been received for the student representative for the 2006/2007 school year. The possibility of expanding the criteria of the student representative to include siblings or students interested in disability-related issues was discussed and tabled.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Beverly Dean Crabtree, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together, Inc. sent a letter to the Commission describing the proposed ramps program, in lieu of her presentation, originally scheduled for the June Commission meeting, which was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Disabilities Coordinator has been working with Ms. Dean-Crabtree, Beth Hendrix, Deputy Director of Community Services, and Rich Truitt, Chief of Building Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, to resolve issues and to develop procedures for the program.
2. Housing Coalition: No new information.

C. Education Committee: No new information.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Commission web page: Hit report was provided to members.

2. Legislative Committee: Committee Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz distributed an update of legislation as of July 2006.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report:

- A. The Commission has been invited to participate in the Annual Community Day to be held at the Windsor Valley community in Edgewood on August 12th.
- B. The Disabilities Coordinator distributed, Facts for Features, disability-related statistics published by the U.S. Census Bureau, in commemoration of the 16th Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee: Work on the video on using public transportation continues; Mobility Trainer/ Coordinator Cheryl Gable is available for travel-training for individuals with disabilities; a press release on the subject was issued and published in the Baltimore Sun. Transportation Steering Committee members were recognized by Secretary Kristen Cox at the Governor's Cabinet meeting held in Bel Air on June 5th.
- B. Emergency Preparedness: The County-wide Emergency Preparedness Exercise was held on July 12, 2006. Commissioner Angela Barnett served as an evaluator and several individuals with disabilities participated. The volunteers provided positive feedback on the experience. A photograph from the Aegis was distributed.
- C. Updating Commission on Disabilities Brochure: No new information.
- D. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House and Fair: The event will be held on October 7, 2006 at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library. The National Federation for the Blind is one of the anticipated exhibitors. A flyer was distributed.
- E. Harford County Town Hall Meeting (previously known as the Mental Health Town Hall meeting) will be held on December 4, 2006. The event will focus on cross-disability issues. Service

providers will have exhibits and invited guests will include local elected officials and the public. More information to follow.

- F. Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 19th at noon. Nomination forms are available by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY or via email at disability@harfordcountymd.gov

VI. New Business:

- A. A Voter Education/Registration Event, co-sponsored with People First of Harford County, the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, and the Core Service Agency, will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the McFaul Center, Bel Air.
- B. Education Sessions on the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (IED) Program will be held on Thursday, August 3rd, 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library. Commission members who are available to introduce the speakers are asked to contact Sharon Grzanka.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements: There were none.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, August 28, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.